

WATER MATTERS

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From good planning to conservation, Tucson Water Director Tim Thomure explains the reasons Tucson is ready for drought, climate change or shortage on the Colorado River.

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A proud part of the City of Tucson



WORKING WITH WATER

As the **Director of Tucson Water**, I am often asked, “When are we going to run out of water?” People are often surprised by my response: Tucson is one of the most water resilient cities in the western United States. For decades, with the support of our customers, we’ve planned for our future water needs and continuously invested in infrastructure. These efforts have prepared Tucson Water to not only weather droughts and a changing climate, but to also support our growing economy and a great quality of life for the coming decades. Here are eight factors that make us water resilient:

1 Conservation: Tucson Water serves the same amount of water as we did in the 1980s – even though our customer base has expanded by over 200,000 people. Tucsonans have reason to be proud of their water conservation ethic: per-person water use is among the lowest in the Southwest.

2 Diversification of Water Sources: In the early 80s we used 100% local groundwater. Since then, we’ve diversified our sources of water.

- Built a reclaimed water system that irrigates parks, golf courses, and schools with treated wastewater, saving enough drinking water to serve 60,000 families a year.
- Stored and received Colorado River water via the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal. We purchase almost 47 billion gallons each year. Today, over 90% of the water Tucson uses is Colorado River water recharged and recovered at Tucson Water’s Clearwater facilities in Avra Valley.
- Invested in rainwater and stormwater harvesting to irrigate trees and vegetation that clean and cool the air and provide shade, all while conserving drinking water.

3 Priority CAP Allocation: During a time of shortage, cities and Native American tribes have the highest priority for CAP water and are the last to lose this resource.

4 Banking: In recent years, we’ve recharged about 30% more Colorado River water than we’ve pumped out to serve our customers. That means we have water “banked” in the aquifer, available in times of need.

5 Regional Water Management Partnering: Tucson Water and Metro Water have implemented an Inter-Active Management Area agreement with the City of Phoenix as part of regional water management strategy. If there is a shortage on the Colorado River, we can access the CAP water we stored for Phoenix here in our Tucson facilities. Phoenix has the opportunity to take a portion of water from the CAP they wouldn’t have access to otherwise. We also deliver Colorado River water to smaller, local water suppliers through our water system so they can benefit from their CAP allotment and reduce dependency on groundwater.

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tucsonaz.gov/
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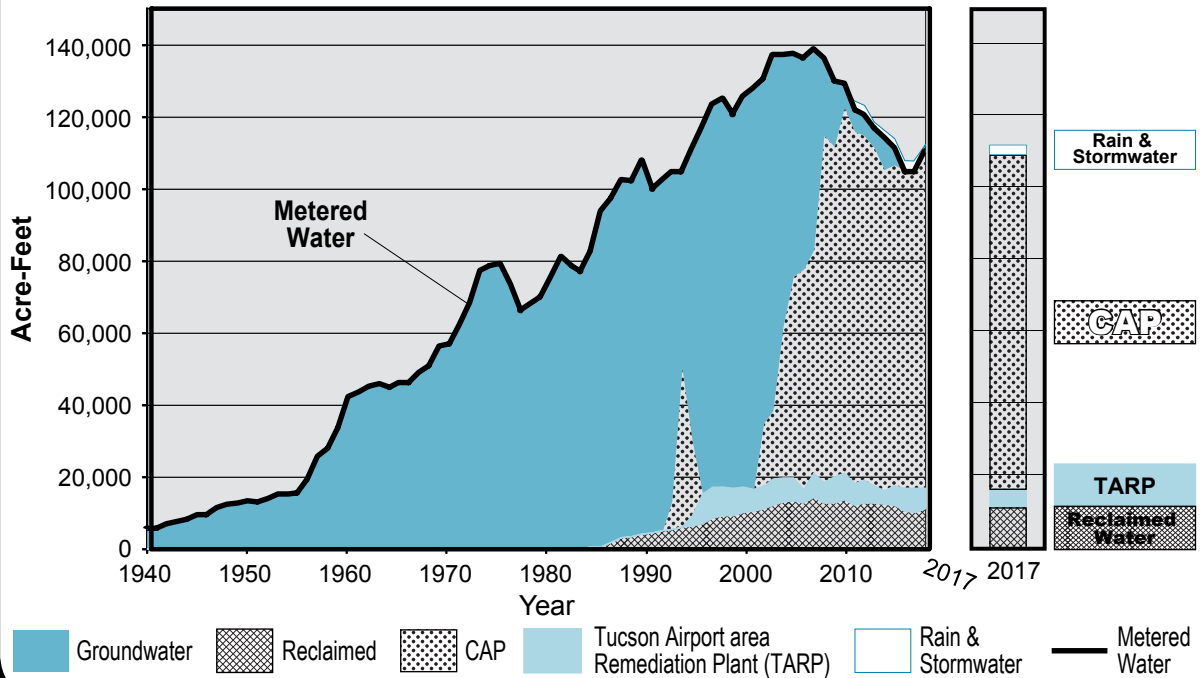


6 Augmentation: Tucson Water is constantly seeking opportunities to buy or lease additional renewable water rights.

7 Remediation: Since 1994, we have treated contaminated groundwater in the area of Tucson's airport to safe drinking water standards, creating tap water, and protecting the quality of our groundwater for the future. These treatment facilities provide about 5% of our drinking water annually.

8 Groundwater: Groundwater in the aquifer is considered a non-renewable water resource because it can take decades to replenish and rise. As we've used more and more renewable supplies such as CAP water, our groundwater levels in central Tucson have begun to rise – as much as 60 feet in some areas. We have legal and physical access to this groundwater that could provide several decades' supply on its own. However, we protect and preserve this resource as a backup in times of drought, and a bridge to our future of even greater water efficiency and renewable supplies.

Tucson Water Production (1940-2017)



Go paperless to pay my water bill online?

Join over 20,000 Tucson Water customers who receive and pay their bills electronically.

Sign up today to pay your monthly utility services bill online:

- ✓ Quick
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CITY OF TUCSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Q&A about Recycling Plastics

Here are the answers to the top five questions we get about recycling plastics:

- 1** What about plastic bags? Never put plastic bags in your **Blue Barrel** recycling. If you want to recycle plastic bags or any type of film plastic, take it to a grocery store plastic recycling bin.
- 2** When recycling plastic bottles, do I leave the cap on or off? Leave the cap on. Don't smash the bottles – they are easier to sort if they haven't been flattened.
- 3** Why isn't Styrofoam recycled? Styrofoam is only usable in block form. When Styrofoam blocks get thrown into a recycling collection truck, they get broken up and are not usable.
- 4** Do I need to rinse plastic bottles or jars? Try to get as much food out using a spoon or scraper. A light rinse is great but so is saving water!
- 5** Can I recycle plastic containers? For example, strawberry containers or bakery boxes? Absolutely! Just make sure they are free of food waste.

Follow these tips and you'll find that you can recycle most plastics in your **Blue Barrel**.

Send your questions to our Facebook page at **Do More Blue Tucson** or download the **Recycle Coach** app.

PIMA COUNTY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Medications should **NEVER** be flushed!

Many medications are not removed through the wastewater treatment process and can end up in the environment when flushed down drains.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department collaborates with the **Dispose-A-Med** Program. This program provides events and drop-off locations where you can safely dispose of unused and expired medication.

Visit the **Dispose-A-Med** website for more information:
www.disposeamed.pima.gov



PIMA COUNTY
WASTEWATER RECLAMATION



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Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, environmental services, and wastewater.

Environmental Services (ES) (520) 791-3171 or visit tucsonaz.gov/environmental-services

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) (520) 724-6609 or visit pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation